

The *Missoulain* goes for the here of the Big Hole fight rough shod.

The latest news from the Black Hills must be highly edifying to the peace policy advocates.

Maginnis' masterly speech is complimented by the London Press. The speech accorded too much credit to Gen. Gibbon; otherwise, it was perfect.

The Legislature of Missouri want an appropriation to remove the Capital out their way, and make various other small demands upon Congress.

If cadets are dismissed the naval and military academies for hazing, what ought to be done to Rutherford B. for Hayes Governor Tilden?

Americans inventors are growing popular in Great Britain, and the lion grows in consequence. Nothing heard from the unicorn as yet.

The San Francisco *Post* favors dividing California into two States, because of the difference in the habits, manners and tastes of the people of different sections.

General Grant is said to resemble a portrait of Sir William Grant, once Master of the Rolls, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence. When General Grant was commander-in-Chief he, too, was Master of the (Muster) Rolls.

Patrolman Philip C. Beil, whose heroic services in rescuing so many persons from watery graves, will soon receive a medal of the first class from the Secretary of the Treasury, in recognition of his courage and humanity.

Horace Maynard, our Minister to Turkey, complaining to the Porte of adverse Press criticisms, received the gentle reminder that the Press in Turkey, like that of the United States, was free. A violent conclusion, and poor comfort!

The President expresses the opinion that, if the civil service be purified in New York, there will be no trouble in the rest of the country. This is rather hard on New York, considering the fact that for sixteen years or more past, the Federal offices in that city have been held by Republicans.

Senator Booth calls on Mr. Hayes for information regarding the cause of the Nez Perce war, the number of soldiers and of Indians engaged therein, the number of lives lost, the cost of the war, and what has been done with Chief Joseph and those who surrendered with him—most excellent inquiries, all, and involving military questions as well as a question of justice and humanity.—Sun.

General Benjamin F. Butler objects to the present ventilation of the House of Representatives—that is, to the want of proper ventilation in the famous Chamber, familiarly known as the Cave of the Winds. Strenuous efforts have been made on repeated occasions to "ventilate" General Butler in the House of Representatives, most of which have become famous by reason of their failure.

R. J. Gatling writes to the New York *Evening Post* that recent improvements in his gun have brought it to such a stage of perfection that it can fire 1,000 shots a minute, and one man can feed and fire 600 shots per minute. In an official trial 64,000 rounds were fired from a single gun in rapid succession, and without stopping to clean the barrels.

The President has distinctly notified officers of the army that he will look upon drunkenness with marked disfavor, and that no leniency or mercy may be expected from him in any and all matters where the abuse, if not the use, of intoxicating beverages is involved. Senator Plumb, of Kansas, has introduced a bill providing an additional article of war, forbidding gaming, on penalty of dismissal by court-martial; and between the two propositions, the army is likely to be made a moral institution. Now, let an edict be issued against profanity, and the precedent of the army in Flanders will be given the go-by. By these means, the good work will be advanced, and there will be no necessity hereafter of falling in against a fence in order to dress a straight line. *Vive la bagatelle!*

The very reasonable request made by Senator Stanley Matthews to have the clerk of his committee discharged because the latter ventured to indict some strictures upon him, has not been complied with. This, to say the least, is very unkind, for if this wicked newspaper correspondent is permitted to carry on his pen and ink warfare upon Senator Matthews in the degraded Press of Chicago and New York, what becomes of Senatorial divinity and immaculacy? Perhaps some patriotic individual who does not wish to give offence to the Press fellows, has interfered as a blessed peacemaker in order to conserve alike the dignity of the Senate and that Keystone to the constitutional arch known as the "liberty of the Press." Mention that incorrigible Mr. Curtis draws his weekly salary with commendable regularity.

"Years ago," says a New York contemporary, "Bill Poole was bantering Morrissey for a fight. The latter offered to meet him anywhere else but at the foot of Christopher street, which was considered the Poole dunghill. 'Bet you a hundred,' says Poole, 'I'll name another place and you won't pledge yourself to fight me there.' The wager was covered and Poole named the foot of Amos street (next street), Morrissey would not break his pledge, and he accordingly met Poole and received a terrible thrashing at the hands of the latter's friends." This is intended as compliment

ary to Morrissey, but the Senator will probably regard it as an effort to damn him with faint praise.

OUR UNPROTECTED BORDER.

Selfishness is such a prominent characteristic of human nature, and the human judgment is at the best so extremely fallible, that individual opinions of doubtful subjects are rarely regarded with confidence, and the verification of an important prediction is usually accredited to chance rather than to the result of superior intelligence or enlightenment. It cannot be truthfully asserted, however, that the verification of all predictions is the result of chance; on the contrary, it too often happens that failure to foresee and provide against disastrous events is the result of carelessness or criminal neglect. Our Indian wars are striking examples of this latter fact. It required no supernatural gift of "mystical lore" to foresee the results of the Sioux and Nez Perce conflicts. The same reasoning that enables us to conclude the escape of game which has already passed beyond pursuit and the reach of the hunter's rifle, was sufficient to show that Sitting Bull and Joseph were safe from capture after they had crossed the Missouri river, and certainly those having the advantage of superior sources of information and possessing acknowledged military ability and experience should have been able to foresee those results with the same degree of accuracy as could the ordinary observer. It is therefore in no spirit of egotism that we claim to have predicted the result of the late campaigns against the Sioux and the Nez Perces, and we have no desire to make any unfavorable remarks upon the mismanagement of those campaigns which are not justified by facts evident to any intelligent person who may desire to investigate the subject; and while we freely admit that concern for the interests of our constituency has been the chief cause of previous action in these matters, we have never knowingly misrepresented facts or intentionally misinterpreted the motives which have prompted the military authorities to adopt the very unsatisfactory course they have pursued, and are still pursuing, in regard to Indian affairs in this vicinity.

The Indian situation in the Northwest is at present one of peculiar interest and danger, and even the most indifferent observer can hardly fail to note with surprise the almost criminal negligence of our Government to provide against hostile incursions from the North and the escape of deplorable hands from the reservations south of the Missouri. The Canadians regarded the wild and almost barren country north of Montana, although destitute of white settlements, of sufficient importance to justify the establishment, at great expense, of a military and civil government, not only to hold in subjection the lawless bands of Indians, but to afford the latter the benefit of just and humane laws and to protect them from the evil influences to which they were at the time subject. Yet our own government leaves unprotected more than five hundred miles of northern frontier, and communities of deserving white settlers are left at the mercy of those northern Indians whom an ill-advised policy of this same government has provoked to slaughter and rapine. And all this in face of the fact that troops, sufficient at least to carry on a successful warfare with the most dangerous tribes, are quartered within the Territory, but so distributed, as to be of no practical use for the purposes for which they were intended to be used. From Fort Buford to Fort Benton, a distance of nearly four hundred miles, and from the Missouri river to the boundary line, there is not a military station to keep in check the hordes of savages that infest this vast region, prey upon the settlements and defy pursuit and punishment.

In a former issue we took occasion to remark that no matter what inducements were held out or what measures were taken to compel the Indians to remain north of the line, hunger would force them to follow the buffalo, and as the latter ranged south of the line during the winter, the Indians could not and would not remain in the Canadian Territory during the winter. The same facts will apply to all the northern tribes except, perhaps, the few who have forsaken a nomadic life and those who are wholly supported at the expense of the government. They cannot live on the Yellowstone, on the Missouri or at other points, after the buffalo have deserted those regions, any more than they can live in the Northwest Territory after the buffalo have come south of the line. The first snowstorm of the season, which sometimes occurs as early as August or September, also compels them to desert the mountains and pitch their camps in the neighborhood of wooded streams, and where the grass is good. Now the Milk river country, from Fort Belknap to where the river crosses the boundary line, is perhaps the only spot in Montana that possesses all these advantages during the greater portion of the year. In the summer the Bear Paw and Little Rockies abound with water, grass and game, and in the winter the Milk river and its tributary streams north and west of Belknap furnish the Indian with all the necessities of his winter camp, and here, at one season or another, will be found all the tribes that roam the Northwest. There is not a tribe on this or the other side of the line that does not visit this region at some time during the year, and many of the most dangerous tribes make it their permanent home. It has also another great attraction for hostile Indians. It affords them a refuge when pursued by the soldiers. They have a full view of the surrounding country, and on the approach of

an enemy can step across the line and snap their fingers in the faces of their foes. It is true the Nez Perces were intercepted and captured by Gen. Miles while they were quietly camped in this region, but the Nez Perces had ample time to reach the boundary line before Gen. Miles made the attack. They were, however, worn out after their march of two thousand miles, and having no reason to expect a foe from the direction in which Miles approached them, they delayed to rest themselves and their horses. The troops at Fort Shaw and Benton are perhaps designed to protect this wide stretch of country, but the garrison at Benton is too weak and the one at Fort Shaw too distant to render material service, and when the Fort Shaw command had a very favorable opportunity to render effective service he failed to take advantage of it.

In view of the above facts, we may be justified in asking the question, "If it is not highly important that a military post, garrisoned by a large force of infantry and cavalry, should be built in the Milk river country, at once, of what use or benefit are the troops now stationed in this Territory. Gen. Miles, it is true, accomplished a world of good in capturing the Nez Perces, but Miles is a notable exception to some of his superiors in command but inferior in ability; beside, Gen. Miles could have whipped the Nez Perces with greater ease if he had been stationed on Milk river, instead of at the mouth of Tongue River, when the enemy crossed the Missouri. Outside of the slight moral effect of having troops in the Territory, the soldiers have rendered but slight service towards keeping the Indians in check, for the very good reason that they have been distributed with a view to adding expense to the government and putting money in the pockets of certain individuals, rather than to protect the lives and homes of defenceless settlers and prosecuting the Indian wars with earnestness, vigor and success.

"The annual retreat of the Clergy of the Archdiocese of New York," says the *Herald* of that city, "which commenced last Monday, closed yesterday. Over one hundred Catholic priests participated in meditation and prayer, attended by Cardinal McCloskey, and have no doubt emerged with increased health and spiritual vigor." We would not be thought irreverent, but think it would be an excellent thing if the editors of the newspaper dioceses of New York and other cities could go into annual retreat for a week or two. It would do them and the public much good, especially the promoters of sensation and the mendacious correspondents who write lying reports about the army. It would impart a healthier tone to the bilious editorials of the *Herald* and *Sun* and reduce the gush of many of the fellows who utilize the pen, pastepot and scissors. Don't Plumb has already set the example by writing "Sunday meditations" in the Washington *Capital*, but the rest of his paper, alas! is not in keeping.

It now turns out that Senator Ben Hill, of Georgia, never owned a war-horse, and therefore was never carried through battle by him, and the said war-horse has not died and been buried with an epitaph. And yet some paragraphist, afflicted with the tumor of imagination, got up a first class sensation out of a myth. Perhaps he was a bitter enemy of the Georgia Senator, and wanted to draw attention to the fact that he never set a squadron in the Confederate field, nor the division of a Confederate battle knew more than a spinster. Any way, the story is like that of Johnny and his dog. His name was not Johnny and he had no dog.

FORT WALSH.

FORT WALSH, Dec. 3, 1877.

To the Editor of the Record:

On the 24th of November Major Walsh and Captain Allen were at Milk River, inspecting the Mounted Police post lately built there. There was a camp of Assinaboins of about 140 lodges, eight miles up the river, and a camp of nine lodges of Gros Ventres about half a mile from the post and half a mile from the boundary line.

In the course of the evening Major Walsh was talking with some of the Assinaboins, and learned from them that the Nez Perce woman captured on Milk river a short time ago was then in the Gros Ventre camp. The Major did not allow his enquiries to cause suspicion, but waited until the following morning, when he started for the Gros Ventre camp accompanied by Captain Allen, for the purpose of rescuing this woman. On nearing the camp the Gros Ventres saw the officers coming and suspecting their purpose, the inmates of the lodge in which the unfortunate woman was stopping ordered her to lie down and pretend sickness or they would kill her as soon as the Police left the camp.

Major Walsh had an Assinaboin with him to identify the woman and point out the lodge, which enabled him to go straight to the spot where the woman was lying. He entered the lodge with the interpreter while Captain Allen and one man remained outside with rifles ready in case of need. The Major then sent for the owner of the lodge and the chief of the camp, "Lame Bull," and informed them that it was his intention to take the woman to her people and that it was contrary to the law of the White Mother to hold a captive, and unless they gave her up peacefully, he would have to resort to other means. The Indians said the woman was too sick to travel, but finding this excuse would not do they then said the American chiefs had sent for her and they intended taking her to them. Finding they could not make excuses sufficiently strong, and seeing the

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determined attitude of the Canadian officers they most reluctantly gave her over to Major Walsh. She had been abused very much while in the camp and was suffering considerably from illusage.

It was rather a dangerous errand for these two officers to go into the camp with but one man to support them, but they waited until they returned to the fort for assistance, the camp would have moved across the boundary line. Too much credit cannot be given Major Walsh and Captain Allen for their prompt and determined action in this matter, which shows that so long as the Canadian Government employs such officers there is little danger of the law being trifled with on Canadian territory. Upon arrival at the Fort with the captured woman, there were two Nez Perce Indians ready to receive her, they having come from the camp a few days previous. On the 26th instant this woman left Fort Walsh to join her people in the Nez Perce camp.

Major Walsh left the Fort on the 26th ult. for the Sioux camp (Sitting Bull's) to arrest an Indian for killing his (the Indian's) uncle.

CYPRESS.

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R. R. MILLS,
JOHN HUNSBERGER.
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